

YOU *and the* PEACE



THE war in Europe is over. The German nation lies crushed and broken. In its mad bid for power and its ultimate plunge to destruction it has carried with it into lesser degrees of misery and chaos many of the European countries. On the other side of the world, the Japanese await a fate no less terrible. For a brief moment the forces of Britain and America in Europe pause for breath before turning their faces to the East. And, in pausing, the thought returns more forcibly than ever: such a war must never again occur.

The reader of the above paragraph has probably felt already a wave of mental nausea, and no doubt a cynical smile curls his lips. He has heard similar sentiments expressed before. It was all said after the last war. Was it not a war to end war? And twenty years later it was all happening again, on an even more devastating scale. Cynicism in this case is surely understandable. The last war as a war to make the world safe for posterity was fought in vain. No one had learned the lessons it taught. The League of Nations had failed, German militarism had been allowed, even encouraged to revive, and nations continued to distrust one another on every hand.

Where did the blame lie? Was it in the much maligned Treaty of Versailles? Had the League of Nations given a sense of false security? Had

the weakness of Britain's foreign policy and America's failure to face the realities of her position in the world scene allowed the militarists to pursue their evil way unchecked? Who was to blame for it all? Baldwin? Ramsay MacDonald? Mussolini? Hitler? In the answer to every question can be found but a portion of the blame. But the real answer is that it was the people of the world who were responsible for the catastrophe of September, 1939. Everyone who drifted along in smug complacency, denying the responsibility of citizenship, forgetting the principles of government by the people for the people, and following blindly where others led cannot be free from blame for what has happened.

Those who had known the war were keen to forget its horrors and the social disorders which followed in its train. Pleasure was the first and last thought for most people; and even if they paused in the thirties to think of the trend of international affairs they immediately shrugged the whole depressing subject off their shoulders and turned their thoughts to happier matters. It was too late when Chamberlain went to Munich. It was too late when Hitler marched on Poland.

Will the people—the ordinary man and woman throughout the world—allow the same thing to happen again? Will they be too weak and indifferent to win the peace not for their own indi-